

NUAS CONFERENCE ON RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONALISATION 2023

Turku, Finland

27-29. November 2023

Publicum, University of Turku, Assistentinkatu 7, 20500, Turku, Finland

About

NUAS Nordic dialogue on responsible university internationalisation in a changing world continues.

In recent years, international academic cooperation has become increasingly dependent on political, economic, and social contexts. This reinforces concerns for academic cooperation with higher education institutions as well as in talent recruitment and admissions. How are we fairing in the Nordic universities in terms of academic freedom, corruption, legislation, and political systems combined with digital development?

Welcome to the NUAS bench learning conference to discuss the current trends and learn more on the current topics in the field of responsible internationalisation from different perspectives.

The conference is arranged by two NUAS working groups: Internationalisation and International Admission and Recognition of Qualifications.

Monday, 27 November

14.00 – 17.00 Closed meetings
Publicum, University of Turku, Assistentinkatu 7, 20500

- NUAS Internationalisation group (Pub399)
- NUAS International Admission and Recognition of Qualifications group (Pub499)

15.00 – 16.00 Joint Conference updates, last minute issues & getting to know Publicum

19.00 Pre-conference get-together
Kirjasto (reserved room for NUAS), Brewery Restaurant Koulu, Eerikinkatu 18, 20100

Meet colleagues and network in an old school building in Turku City Centre. Koulu is Finland's largest brewery restaurant and it offers tasty meals too. The event is optional and is at your own costs.

Tuesday, 28 November

9.00 Conference registration opens
Publicum, University of Turku, Assistentinkatu 7, 20500

11.00 – 12.15 Seminar lunch
UNICA Macciavelli, Educarium, University of Turku, Assistentinkatu 5, 20500

11.45 – 12.30 Networking (Publicum lobby)

12.30 – 13.50 Opening of the Conference (Pub1)

- Welcome speech by Rector Jukka Kola, University of Turku

- Opening words by the NUAS WG Leaders Irinja Paakkanen, University of Turku and Ína Dögg Eypórsdóttir, University of Iceland
- Keynote on trends in internationalisation of higher education related to responsible internationalisation by Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement at UK ENIC and Ecctis Ltd
- Discussion

13.50 – 14.15 Short break

14.15 – 15.30 Conference panel: Strategic and Responsible Recruitment (Pub1)

- Moderator: Johanna Kärki
- Panellists: Eeva Liinamo-Liukku, Ann Rishoj Jensen, Oddrun Walstad Maaø, Maria Lindblad, Fridrika Hardardóttir

International student recruitment in higher education institutions is a multidimensional activity involving and engaging several actors not only within the universities but also from various stakeholder groups. Cooperation is carried out extensively e.g. with educational agents or other service providers, and local and national authorities to both reach the desired target groups of prospective students and to ensure their entry to the country. Furthermore, the activities of HEIs' international student recruitment and its operational environment in general, are heavily influenced by governmental decision-making on a national level, as well as global phenomena, including geopolitics.

The purpose of this panel is to shed light on the ways in which Nordic universities seek to implement strategic and responsible student recruitment amidst these ever-changing circumstances and in smooth cooperation with actors outside the HEIs. The panel discussion will allow us to learn about the current activities and topical matters in the field of international student recruitment in different Nordic countries and provides a platform for mutual learning and exchange of best practices.

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break (Publicum lobby)

16.00 – 17.15 Parallel sessions

A) How to manage massive amount of degree applications from abroad in a sustainable and responsible way? A Nordic perspective

- Pub1 lecture hall
- Moderator: Catarina Ståhle-Nieminen
- Presenters: Gabriella Ekström, Aurora Hultqvist, Joanna Kumpula, May Linn Grading Tarasenko

The number of applications in international admissions are rising and this presents a challenge to Nordic universities in developing their admissions systems to better tackle the changing situation. The pressure is highest from countries where there are problems with obtaining student residence permits on time and it is therefore uncertain if the selected students will be able to arrive on time and start their studies.

B) Session on students and researchers from Ukraine and other risky areas: how to process with missing documents, cooperation with immigrant office/ city authorities

- Pub5 seminar room

- Moderator: Oddrun Walstad Maaø
- Presenter: Liisa Hannus

This session will include several aspects of the complex challenges concerning refugees with higher education from Ukraine and other countries in similar situations. It will be divided into four main parts: Brain drain from Ukraine; How do we process applications from students and academics who are refugees or victims of war?; Societal collaboration; and Information about Students at Risk.

C) Ethics of Talent Retention

- Pub309 seminar room
- Moderator: Birgitta Schiorring Madsen
- Speaker: Laura Lindeman, Nikolaj Lubanski

In Denmark, the political focus is very much on how to make sure that international students studying a full degree will stay in the country after they graduated. What is needed to make sure that they are interested in staying and which jobs are they looking for? In Finland, the new government is aiming to tighten the immigration laws and there is uncertainty around how this will affect Talent Boost activities - the talent retention of both students and scholars. How about in other Nordic Countries? How can we interlink the existing or hidden job opportunities when the students and doctoral researchers graduate and hope to find work or a scholar's term is ending and they wish to stay?

D) Approaches to digital credential verification: challenges, solutions, and developments

- Pub4 lecture hall
- Speakers: Jani Ahtiainen, Bettina Sumegi

This session will approach digital credential verification from two perspectives: from the point of view of a credential evaluator working at a university, for whom the different digital verification sources are an invaluable tool and a new kind of challenge at the same time, and from a wider strategy and policy perspective in terms of developing and promoting digital credentials and digital verification. The audience is welcome to share own experiences, solutions, and best practices regarding digital verification and digital credentials.

19.00

Joint seminar dinner

Scandic Julia Å-Sali, Eerikinkatu 4, 20100, Turku

- Welcome words by Vice-Rector Piia Björn, University of Turku

A Nordic Noir -themed conference dinner in Å-Sali which was built into the ruins of a medieval church. A glass of sparkling wine is served by the City of Turku to welcome international colleagues at NUAS.

Wednesday, 29 November

8.15

Registration desk opens

Publicum, University of Turku, Assistentinkatu 7, 20500

9.00 – 10.00

Opening of Day 2 (Pub1)

- Keynote on responsible internationalisation by Professor Emeritus Ole Petter Ottersen, Advocate Former President of Karolinska Institute, Former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oslo
- Moderator: Professor Martin Cloonan

10.00 – 10.30 Coffee break (Publicum lobby)

10.30 – 11.45 Parallel sessions

A) Responsible Collaboration in Higher Education Institutions

- Pub1 lecture hall
- Moderator: Karolina Catoni
- Presenters: Hege Toje, Dr Jukka Tanskanen, Kaisa Kurki, Stefan Törnqvist

Academic partnerships have the potential to build bridges across geographical, political, cultural and institutional boundaries. These partnerships may however be influenced by the geopolitical situation in the collaborating country. There is a need for clear guidelines on how to approach and assess academic collaboration with countries that have a complex geopolitical profile. Both researchers and staff within university administration needs to improve their knowledge about these specific contexts as well as improve the support for collaboration with such environments and countries.

B) Micro-credentials and short term offers

- Pub309 seminar room
- Speaker: Oddrun Maao

Micro-credentials are short, focused credentials designed to provide in-demand skills, competence and experience. Stackable micro-credentials can also provide a pathway to a certificate or full degree, now or when you are ready. In June 2022 the EU Council adopted a recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability. This recommendation aims at supporting the development, implementation and recognition of micro-credentials across Higher Education Institutions, businesses, society and borders. Shorter forms of learning opportunities are currently being developed across Europe and are made available by both public and private providers in addition to universities and other institutions of higher education.

C) Responsible international student journey from enrolment to alumni – how to meet the new students' expectations

- Pub4 seminar room
- Speakers: Madeleine Mattson, Johanna Kärki, Paula Järvinen

Workshop and case study by the University of Turku. The University of Turku has set an ambitious goal of doubling the number of international Master's students by 2030. The number of applications won't be the bottleneck: in the past two application rounds, the number of applications has increased by over 70%. The real challenge is meeting the expectations set in student recruitment marketing. How to ensure that high-quality education and relevant, scalable support services are available for the rapidly growing number of international students?

11.45 – 12.00 Short break

12.00 – 13.00 Closing session and wrap up (Pub1)

- Another view and dialogue on responsible internationalisation by Zahra Jahanshah Rad
- Closing words by Leena Wahlfors, Director of Partnerships and Strategic Engagement, University of Turku
- Closing of the Conference by the NUAS WG Leaders Irinja Paakkanen and Ína Dögg Eyþórsdóttir

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch and Grab&Go lunch
UNICA Macchiavelli, Educarium, University of Turku, Assistentinkatu 5, 20500

14.15 – 17.00 **Post-Conference Side Event**
SANORD NORDIC meeting

- Pub499 seminar room

If your university is member of the Southern African - Nordic Centre SANORD, you are invited to join the Nordic contact persons' meeting after the conference.